

# Annual Water Quality Report

## REPORTING YEAR 2016

### Information on Sources of Water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA prescribes regulation limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Substances that may be present in source water include: microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, or wildlife; inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or may result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming; pesticides and herbicides, which might have a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses; organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems; and radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

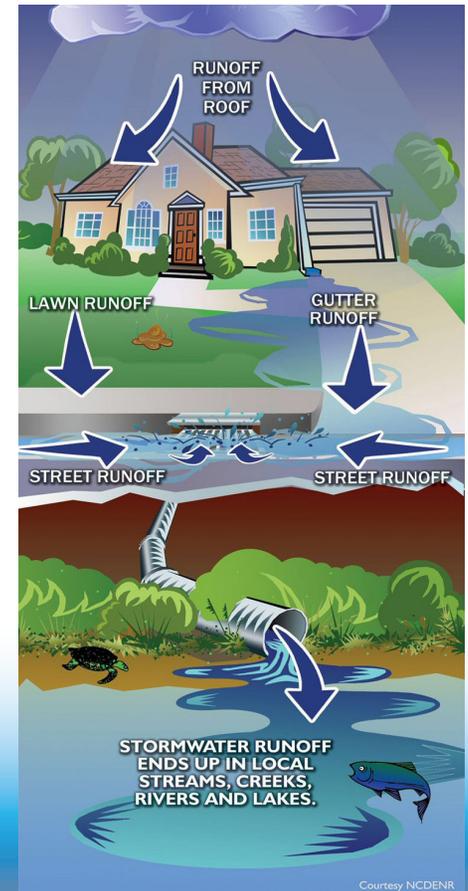
Contaminants may be found in drinking water that may cause taste, color or odor problems. These types of problems are not necessarily causes for health concerns. For more information on taste, odor or color of drinking water, please contact our business office. For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

### Reporting Pollution

Did you know that storm inlets discharge directly into our creeks, rivers, and lakes? Unlike the wastewater we send down drains or toilets, stormwater doesn't get treated and cleaned before it empties into our waterbodies. This means that pollutants on the ground – like fertilizers, motor oil, pet waste, trash, etc. – can end up in our creeks, rivers, and lakes.

Have you ever seen paint running down the street into a stormdrain, an abandoned drum on the side of the road, or an unidentifiable liquid in a gutter? The City's Environmental Quality Division remedies human and environmental health hazards. Call (972) 237-8055 to report pollution concerns.

Learn more at [www.gptx.org/EnvironmentalQuality/Stormwater](http://www.gptx.org/EnvironmentalQuality/Stormwater).



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Grand Prairie  
TEXAS

PWS ID#:0570048

*Este reporte incluye informacion importante sobre el agua para tomar. Para asistencia en español, favor de llamar al telefono (972) 237-8055.*

## Our Drinking Water is Safe!

The City of Grand Prairie's goal is to provide you with safe and reliable drinking water. We are happy to report that our water supply meets the standards for drinking water quality as required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). This report is a summary of the quality of water we provide to you.

## Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable than the general population to certain microbial contaminants, such as Cryptosporidium, in drinking water. Immunocompromised persons such as those undergoing chemotherapy for cancer; those who have undergone organ transplants; those who are undergoing treatment with steroids; and people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders can be particularly at risk from infections. You should seek advice about drinking water from your physician or health care provider. Additional guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791.

## Lead in Home Plumbing

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The City of Grand Prairie is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

## Fun Facts

You use 8 liters to flush a toilet – about the same as you use to brush your teeth.



## Where Does Grand Prairie Water Come From?

Grand Prairie's drinking water is obtained from both surface and ground water sources and has maintained its "Superior" water quality rating.

Grand Prairie surface water supplies are purchased from the cities of Dallas, Fort Worth, and Midlothian. Dallas treats and uses surface water from seven sources: the Elm Fork of the Trinity River, and lakes Grapevine, Lewisville, Ray Hubbard, Ray Roberts, Tawakoni and Fork.

For Worth's drinking water sources include: Lake Benbrook, Lake Bridgeport, Eagle Mountain Lake, Lake Worth, Cedar Creek and Richland Chambers Reservoirs and the Clear Fork Trinity River.

Midlothian's drinking water sources include: Joe Pool Lake, Richland Chambers and the Cedar Creek Reservoirs.

Grand Prairie uses up to 10 ground water wells, mainly during the summer to meet demand. The wells have an average depth of 2,000 feet and are pumped from the Trinity Aquifer.

## Source Water Assessment

The TCEQ completed a source water assessment and results indicate that some of our sources are susceptible to certain contaminants. The sampling requirements for our water system are based on this susceptibility and previous sample data. The susceptibility of our purchase water sources is not included in this assessment. For more information on source water assessment and protection efforts, please contact us at (972) 237-8055.

## QUESTIONS

For more information about this report, contact Cindy Mendez at the Environmental Services Department at (972) 237-8055.

Additional copies of the Water Quality Report are available in the Environmental Services Department office at 206 West Church Street, 2nd floor, or visit the City website at [www.gptx.org](http://www.gptx.org).



## Public Participation

To participate in decisions concerning water, attend Grand Prairie City Council meetings on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers located at City Hall, 317 West College Street. For more information about public participation at council meetings, call (972) 237-8035.

## Household Hazardous Waste

The City collects household hazardous wastes, which should not be put in the garbage or washed down the drain. To drop off household hazardous waste at one of the City's collection events, register at [www.gptx.org/WQ/HHW](http://www.gptx.org/WQ/HHW).

## Information on the Internet

The U.S. EPA Office of Water ([www.epa.gov/watrhome](http://www.epa.gov/watrhome)) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)) websites provide a substantial amount of information on many issues relating to water resources, water conservation and public health.



## REVIEWING TABLE INFORMATION

All drinking water testing results are below those established by the EPA to ensure that the water coming from your tap is safe to drink. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

## Fun Facts



The earth is a closed system, similar to a terrarium, meaning that it rarely loses or gains extra matter.

The same water that existed on the earth millions of years ago is still present today.

## REGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL	MCLG	AVERAGE AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
<b>Antimony</b> (ppb)	2014	6	6	0.23	0-0.26	No	Discharge from petroleum refineries; Fire retardants; Ceramics; Electronics; Solder
<b>Arsenic</b> (ppb)	2014	10	NA	1.18	0-1.4	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
<b>Atrazine</b> (ppb)	2016	3	3	0.22	0.00-0.22	No	Runoff from herbicide used in row crops
<b>Barium</b> (ppm)	2014	2	2	0.037	0-0.048	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Beta/Photon Emitters</b> (pCi/L)	2015	50	0	5.2	5.2	No	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
<b>Chromium</b> (ppb)	2014	100	100	1.0	0-1.4	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Combined Radium 226/228</b> (pCi/L)	2015	5	0	1.5	1.5	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
<b>Cyanide</b> (ppb)	2014	200	200	43.0	0-107	No	Discharge from steel/metal factories; Discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories
<b>Fluoride</b> (ppm)	2015	4	4	0.498	0.498	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
<b>Haloacetic Acids [HAA]</b> (ppb)	2016	60	NA	18.6	8.3-41.7	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<b>Nitrate</b> (ppm)	2016	10	10	0.56	0.074-1.1	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Nitrite</b> (ppm)	2015	1	1	0.08	0-0.204	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Selenium</b> (ppb)	2014	50	50	1.87	0-3.5	No	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge of mines
<b>Total Trihalomethanes [TTHMs]</b> (ppb)	2016	80	NA	22.3	14.5-43.9	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection

## REGULATED SUBSTANCES (continued)

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MRDL	MRDLG	AVG	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Chloramines	2016	4	4	2.47	0.06-5.7	No	Water additive use to control microbes
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL	MCLG	HIGHEST AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Total Coliform Bacteria	2016	TT	0	1.62%	NA	No	Naturally present in the environment
E. Coli Bacteria	2016	*	0	1	NA	No	Human and animal fecal waste

\* A routine sample and a repeat sample are total coliform positive, and one is also E. coli positive.

Although E. coli was detected, there was no violation of the E. coli MCL. Additional monitoring was completed following the positive sample; they indicated no presence of bacteria.

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %TILE)	SITES ABOVE AL	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2015	1.3	1.3	0.335	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2015	15	0	1.0	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analysis from sample sites throughout the community.

## UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	HIGHEST AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Bromodichloromethane (ppb)	2016	5.16	1.09-9.93	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chloroform (ppb)	2016	7.78	5.54-11.8	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Dibromochloromethane (ppb)	2016	2.54	0.00-5.29	By-product of drinking water disinfection

The MCL for beta particles is 4 mrem/year. U.S. EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles.

Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.

In the water loss audit submitted to the Texas Water Development Board for the time period of Jan-Dec 2016, our system lost an estimated

368,687,808 gallons of water. If you have any questions about the water loss audit, please call (972) 237-8055.

## DEFINITIONS

**AL (Action Level):** The concentration of a contaminant, which if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow

**Level 1 assessment:** A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria were found.

**Level 2 assessment:** A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an Escherichia coli (E. coli) maximum contaminant level (MCL) violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria were found on multiple occasions.

**MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level):** The highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

**MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

**MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level):** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

**MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal):** The level of drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

**mrem/year (milli-Roentgen equivalent man per year):** A measure of radioactivity.

**NA: Not applicable.**

**pCi/L (picocuries per liter):** A measure of radioactivity.

**ppm (parts per million):** One part substance per million parts of water (or milligrams per liter).

**ppb (parts per billion):** One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

**TT (Treatment Technique):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

## COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR WATER:

**There are white particles in my water. What are they?**

Get some of the white material and put it in a glass container. Add some vinegar. If the white particles dissolve they are most likely harmless calcium compound formed from the hardness in your water. If the particles do not dissolve, and they float, they are probably nontoxic parts of your water heater's dip tube. Have your water heater serviced.

**Why is my water milky white?**

Many times this is caused by air dissolved in the water. Fill a glass and let it sit on your counter. See if the cloudiness disappears after a few minutes.

**What is that black stain in my sink?**

Manganese, a harmless chemical, is colorless when dissolved in water. When it comes in contact with air, it turns black and adheres to the surface of your sink. You can clean these stains with a household cleanser or a special stain remover.

**I am noticing a blue or green stain. What is this?**

Copper usually causes this. Copper is probably used in your home plumbing and it is being dissolved into your drinking water. A commercial stain remover should help clean these stains.

